

VOTER REGISTRATION COMMISSION[821]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 47.1 and 17A.3, the Voter Registration Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to adopt a new Chapter 12, “Voter Notifications,” Iowa Administrative Code.

New Chapter 12 proposes to require county commissioners to send a notice to a voter when the voter’s primary or general election polling place is permanently changed. Currently, voters across the state are treated inconsistently when polling place locations are permanently changed. Some voters receive notices mailed to their residences and other voters must rely on the election publications or contact the county commissioner’s office to determine the location of the voter’s polling place. Proposed rule 821—12.1(48A) requires county commissioners to notify all active registered voters affected by a permanent primary or general election polling place change of their new polling place location. The rule provides commissioners with the discretion to send notices to each household with an active registered voter affected by the polling place change or to each active registered voter.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed rule on or before November 8, 2011. Written suggestions or comments should be directed to Sarah Reissetter, Director of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State, First Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Persons who want to convey their views orally should contact the Secretary of State’s office by telephone at (515)281-0145 or in person at the Secretary of State’s office on the first floor of the Lucas State Office Building. Requests for a public hearing must be received by November 8, 2011.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 48A.26.

The following amendment is proposed.

Adopt the following new 821—Chapter 12:

CHAPTER 12 VOTER NOTIFICATIONS

821—12.1(48A) Primary and general election polling place change—voter notification required. When a precinct polling place used for the primary or general election is permanently changed by the county commissioner pursuant to Iowa Code section 49.10, the county commissioner shall mail every registered voter with a status of “active” who is affected by the change a notification informing the voter of the change. The county commissioner may either send a notice of the change to each household at which a voter with a status of “active” is registered or send notice of the change to each registered voter with a status of “active.” The notification shall be sent at the time the polling place change is made.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 48A.26.